prerequisite for providing undisturbed habitat prior to tiger reintroduction, as per the assessment of tiger status in Sariska by the Wildlife Institute of India. The State has initiated the process in this regard.

Hazardous Waste

4036. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that about 4.4 million tonnes of hazardous wastes are generated annually in our country;

(b) if so, whether Government have analyzed the consequences; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to tackle this problem of increasing environmental pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the report of the High Powered Committee on Hazardous wastes constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the assessment of waste generation carried out in accordance with the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) amendment Rules, 2000, about 4.4 million tonnes of hazardous wastes are generated annually in our country. The improper handling and indiscriminate disposal of such wastes are likely to cause environmental pollution.

(c) The Government of India has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which were amended in 2000 and 2003. These rules regulate the generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal, export and import of hazardous wastes. According to these rules, all hazardous wastes are required to be treated and disposed of in specially designed secured landfills. These rules as amendd in 2003 provide for the development of a common hazardous waste Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) through joint-venture partnership. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance in the form of Central Government subsidy to the tune of Rs. 2.00 crores for setting up of such facilities provided a matching grant is given by the State Government.

The amendments to these rules in 2003, provide for channelization of recyclable wastes listed in Schedule 4 of the rules. A procedure for

registration of the recyclers has been laid down under Rule 19 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) amendment Rules, 2003. According to these rules, all hazardous wastes recyclers are required to obtain consents under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous Waste Rules. The units recycling hazardous wastes are also required to have enviromentally sound technologies and adequate provisions for treatment and disposal of the subsequent wastes generated.

The Central Pollution Control Board has published a number of Guidelines for safe handling and disposal of hazardous wastes and to provide guidance to the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories and the industries for handling hazardous wastes.

Development of Forest Villages

4037. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up development of forest villages instead of cutting them for housing and industrial;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the progress achieved under this, so far, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Govt. of India provides assistance for the development of forest villages under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The project proposals received from the States are recommended by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for approval as per prescribed procedure and for release of funds. As per the information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the state-wise details of funds provided for the development of forest villages during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07, are given in the Statement *(See* below). The assistance under the above scheme is mainly provided for development of forest villages by providing basic facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, primary education, approach roads, vocational training centers etc. As per information available in this ministry, there is not forest village in the State of Andhra Pradesh.